

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DOCKET 02-277

RECEIVED

MAY - 8 2003

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY8 Tarpon Rd.
East Quogue, N.Y. 11942
E-Mail:
susann@mindspring.com
(631) 728-4459
VM (718) 390-3536
May 8, 2003The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C.

Dear Chairman Powell:

This letter is to request that it be made Republican policy to uphold and defend the right of free PEG access (Public, Educational and Governmental) to protect, extend and insure its universal coverage in perpetuity over all cable channels, so all Americans would be guaranteed free PEG access in the future, no matter if digital, DVD, linear, satellite or other television technology is being used. Please do not repeal the present law on which the broadcast system is based in the U.S., thereby preserving PEG access, which affords just compensation to the public.

Freedom of local programming and use of cable facilities, studios, editing rooms, training, staff and equipment of PEG access is a major factor in maintaining freedom of speech and of the press at the local level. In addition, by continuing the current federal policy of free PEG access, we are securing alternative, grass roots voices and talent at the local level that might not otherwise be represented by major news networks and print media. This has become an important issue because monopoly journalism practiced by corporations and certain individuals who are not journalists, is controlling the news media. This negative trend also has affected small media ownership at an alarming rate. This phenomenon also has trickled down to the very important level of PEG access, creating loss, interruption or elimination of local connections, channels, as well as allowing some cable companies to violate the law in using PEG channels for commercial purposes as well as withholding of profits from Internet sales from local governments which by right should get a percentage, taking PEG out of basic cable, bumping C-Span 1 & 2 and other breaches of contract.

If this abuse of PEG access and the media is allowed to continue, it will threaten our First Amendment rights under the Constitution, and eat away at the cornerstone of our Great Democracy and way of life. This terrible abuse against PEG access, if allowed to continue, will ultimately place making money above the free flow of ideas and ideals of constituents of our Great Nation.

Sincerely yours,

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDESusann Lee White, Member Capitol Hill Club, RNC
PEG Access producer and freelance journalist
Member, National Press Club & American Newswomen's Club, Washington, D.C.